

**Harrison County Adult Detention Center
Policy & Procedures Directives**

USE OF FORCE

POLICY: All Corrections Officers assigned to duty in the Detention Center will use only those amounts of physical force necessary to maintain or regain control of an inmate. Use of force is clearly different from physical punishment that is not tolerated under any circumstances. In no event will physical force be considered justifiable as punishment.

PROCEDURE: In order to give an inmate every opportunity to cease his or her disruptive or aggressive behavior and cooperate, the **Use of Force Theory** documented in **general Order # 10, 4**, will be followed, excluding Deadly Force (i.e., within the confines of the Detention Center.)

I. GENERAL INFORMATION:

General Order # 10,4

Use of Force Theory: Five categories of force applicable for corrections environment:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1) Dialogue | 2) Escort Technique | 3) Pain Compliance |
| 4) Mechanical Control | 5) Impact Weapon | |

Physical force will only be used as a last resort to control inmates.

All Corrections Officers will be trained in the proper application of physical force techniques.

II. Oleoresin Capsicum

In the corrections environment, the use of Oleoresin Capsicum (O.C. Spray) may be used before or after Pain Compliance with any inmate who fails to comply with verbal orders and the inmate is yet uncontrollable. Only officers that are properly trained will be authorized use of O.C. Spray. Under no circumstances will O.C. Spray be used on an inmate while in approved

restraints or behind a locked cell door. The effects may mask or cover other medical conditions such as allergies, heart conditions, lung problems, diabetes, and overdoses resulting from high toxic levels of drugs like Cocaine, Amphetamines, Barbiturates, PCP, Opiates, Heroin or Alcohol. Chemical agents like O.C. Spray is considered an intermediate use of force alternative.

III. Special Circumstances

In unique circumstances where verbal dialogue has failed or has proven to be impractical, staff may be forced to make a decision, such as whether to use force on a pregnant inmate or an aggressive inmate with open cuts, sores, or lesions. Special cases such as mentally ill, handicapped, or pregnant inmates must be carefully assessed by the Shift Supervisor or above, to determine whether the situation is critical enough to require the use of physical force.

Pregnant Inmates – When restraints become necessary for pregnant inmates, precautions to ensure the fetus is not harmed will be taken. Medical staff will be summoned immediately to decide whether the inmate's restraints are feasible for her condition, or whether the inmate would be safer restrained in the medical area.

Inmates with Wounds or Cuts – Aggressive inmates with open cuts or wounds who have attempted to harm themselves or others should be carefully approached, with staff wearing protective gear.

IV. MEDICAL EXAMINATION

Medical Staff will be immediately contacted to examine an inmate involved in an incident requiring the use of force which resulted in injury. An inmate's refusal or acceptance of an examination must be noted on the Incident Report. If injuries occurred, medical attention will be provided for the injured party. Force or restraint may be used when ordered by physician or his designee in order to allow medical staff to administer medical treatment deemed necessary. The force or restraint must be under the direct supervision of a physician & only when treatment is necessary to protect the health of other persons, as in the case of contagious disease or to protect the inmate against self-inflicted injury or death.

V. CLEAN-UP

Any area where there is spillage of blood, or other body fluids, will be sanitized immediately upon the authorization of the Shift Supervisor or above. However, the supervisor must first make the determination whether there is need to preserve evidence.

All blood and body secretions should be immediately removed and placed in an appropriate waste disposal container and the area washed with a disinfectant. In addition, any clothing that have been contaminated with these fluids, including the equipment and clothing of staff involved in the use of force, should be immediately disinfected or destroyed, as appropriate (Note: Assistance from the Medical area will be sought to assure proper handling of hazardous waste)

VI. DOCUMENTATION

Each officer involved will document force applied at any level on a Narrative Form. Officer viewing the use of force may be asked to write a narrative depending upon the circumstances. Complete narratives will be submitted to the Shift Supervisor at the conclusion of the shift.

Use of Force Situations: It is generally recognized that Corrections Officers have a right to use force as it relates to five situations.

1. Self- Defense: Correctional Officers may use force in their self-defense.
2. Defense of Third Party: Correctional Officers may use force in the defense of a third person, including another staff person, an inmate, or a visitor.
3. Prevention of a Crime: Correctional Officers may use force to prevent the commission of a crime within the facility.
4. Prevention of an Escape: Correctional Officers may use force to prevent an escape.
5. Enforcement of Detention Rules: Correctional Officers may use force in the enforcement of facility rules and regulations.

Force is intended to be used as a control measure when necessary. It will not be used for punishment. In the Use of Force Theory it is not required that an officer use the previous level on the continuum. By necessity, the level of force needed is most often made based on a quick assessment of the potential danger of the situation and the resources available. Typically the lowest level of force that will most quickly effect resolution and neutralize the danger is used.

All control force must cease as soon as the inmate is subdued, restrained or under control.

VII. DEADLY FORCE

Firearms will only be used as a last resort to prevent an escape, to prevent life threatening injury to a person, to prevent hostages from being taken or to quell a major disturbance. A verbal order to stop must be issued before a shot is fired. Firearms will not be discharged in any case where there is reason to believe that the life of an innocent bystander will be endangered.

Only employees with current certification will be allowed to carry firearms. No Corrections Officers will carry firearms or weapons on his/her person, concealed or not unless acting within the scope of official duties for the HCADC. Except in emergency situations, officers carrying firearms are assigned to perimeter.

Riley
Facility Administrator

01/01/01
Effective Date